

One year on – an evaluation of life in a supported living unit in N. Ireland

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St Paul's Court: Context



- A purpose built supported living unit for people with dementia.
- Designed for people with mild to moderate dementia.
- Divided into two parts or phases.
 - Phase One: opened March 2004
 - Phase Two: opened February 2009

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The Clients



- The eight people who live in Phase Two.
- Three males, five females.
- Mean age: seventy four years.
- Two people came from St Paul's Phase One, two from their own homes and four from Nursing Homes.

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Data Collection Framework



- The Joseph Rowntree Foundation's six Keys to a Good Life were used as a framework for data collection (Bowers et al 2009).
 - Meaningful Relationships.
 - Meaningful Daily and Community Life.
 - Personalised Support and Care.
 - Personal Identity and Self Esteem.
 - Home and Personal Surroundings.
 - Personal Authority and Control.

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Focus of the Presentation



- Meaningful Relationships.
- Personalised Support and Care.

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Design & Methods



- We used a multi-method case study with data collection at three monthly intervals.
- We used seven data collection methods including the administration of quantitative assessment tools, in depth interviews with staff and clients and observation of activities plus social network analysis.

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Why Social Network Analysis (SNA)?

SNA enables researchers to:

- collect information about people in social contexts.
- visualise the data.
- quantitatively measure constructs like cohesion, brokerage and ranking.

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Relationships

- All clients maintained contact with their family
- A number of service users expanded their network of relationships

Network Collection Tool: Exemplar
Hacking and Bates (2008)

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Relationships

- All individuals interacted with at least one other individual – no one was sitting in isolation.
- All interactions were reciprocated.
- Increased cognitive impairment was not a barrier to participation in activities.

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Relationships: Sociograms

An Informal Chat

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Relationships: Matrices

A Reminiscence Session

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Self Care: Key Points

- Interview and observational data shows that clients can prepare food, eat a meal and do the housework.
- The ability of the client to take care of their own activities of daily living was not confined to those clients with mild cognitive deficits.
- Quantitative assessments of clients' functional abilities may over estimate the severity of any deficits.

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References



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